NO. 1

ONI PRESS

SPIRIT OF THE SHADOWS

DANIEL ZIEGLER

NICK CAGNETTI

NO. 1

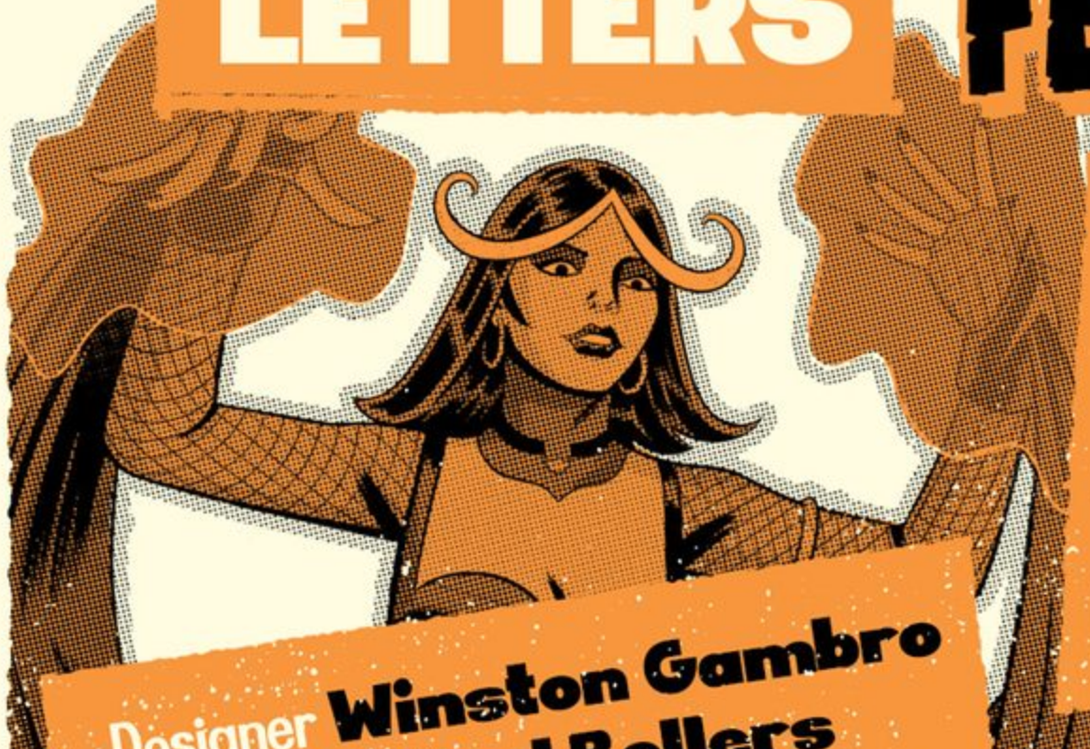
ONI PRESS

SPIRIT OF THE SHADOWS

STORY
DANIEL ZIEGLER & NICK CAGNETTI

ART & COLORS
NICK CAGNETTI

LETTERS
FERRAN DELGADO



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SOMEWHERE OUT OF TIME AND SPACE...

KATRINA?

ERIK? IS IT REALLY YOU?

IT'S ME, MY LOVE.

I'VE WAITED A *LIFETIME* TO FEEL YOUR TOUCH AGAIN.

NOW *NOTHING* CAN TEAR US APART.

SCRR-

NOT SO FAST!

-ACK

KATRINA!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!

EVERY NEW SPIRIT MUST PASS THROUGH THIS REALM FIRST.

TAKE ME BACK, VILE CREATURE!

TEMPER! I AM THE CLERICAL.

HERE TO WELCOME YOU INTO OUR SPIRIT REALM.

TELL ME, WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER OF YOUR LIFE?

MY LIFE? I REMEMBER KATRINA. MY BELOVED KATRINA.

I COULD NEVER FORGET HER.

WHAT ABOUT YOURSELF?

I BELIEVE MY NAME IS... ERIK?

BINGO!

ERIK LEROUX.

DO YOU REMEMBER DYING, ERIK?

I'M *DEAD?!*

I AM AFRAID SO.

IS THAT WHY I'M DRESSED LIKE THIS?

YOU DO NOT REMEMBER THAT, EITHER?

MY MEMORIES ARE ALL *HAZY.*

THAT IS QUITE *NORMAL* HERE. THIS IS HOW YOU LOOKED AT THE TIME OF YOUR DEATH.

UP IN THE SACRED REALM, YOU CAN APPEAR AS YOU *CHOOSE.*

BUT DOWN HERE IN THE SPIRIT REALM, YOU ARE AS YOU *DIED.*

THE REASON FOR THE COSTUME, AS WELL AS EVERYTHING ELSE THAT HAPPENED IN YOUR LIFE, IS DOCUMENTED IN THIS *BOOK.*

KEEP IT *SAFE.*

IT IS THE *ONLY COPY,* AND IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR JUDGMENT.

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR *JUDGMENT!* I MUST RETURN TO MY LOVE.

E.L.

I AM AFRAID JUDGMENT IS YOUR *ONLY CHANCE* OF DOING SO.

THE *REALMKEEPERS* WILL DECIDE WHETHER YOU ARE PERMITTED UP IN THE SACRED REALM WITH YOUR KATRINA OR IF YOU ARE *FOREVER STUCK DOWN* HERE INSTEAD.

SNAP

IT IS QUITE SIMPLE! EITHER YOU LED A *MORAL LIFE* OR NOT.

SO, DID YOU?

I BELIEVE SO. I CAN'T RECALL.

THEN I WOULD SUGGEST YOU START *READING.* FAREWELL!

MEANWHILE, IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING...

ERIK LEROUX

MY POOR *ERIK.* I WISH WE'D NEVER MET.

THEN BOTH OF OUR LIVES WOULD'VE TURNED OUT FOR THE *BETTER.*

MISSING

THAT'S WHERE IT ALL WENT *WRONG.*

WANTED
MALPRACTICE

DR. HYDE PERKINS

CRESCENT MANOR

BEWARE THE SPIRIT OF THE SHADOWS

WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THE *AFTERLIFE* WOULD BE THIS *DEMANDING*?!

REALMS, BOOKS, JUDGMENT.

I SUPPOSE I'D BETTER LEARN WHO ERIK LEROUX REALLY WAS IF I HAVE ANY *HOPE* OF *REUNITING* WITH MY KATRINA.

WHOA!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

IT'S AS IF I'M THERE, *RELIVING* THE MOMENT.

IT'S ALL SLOWLY COMING BACK TO ME...

IT WAS A PARTY FOR THE ELITES, PUT ON BY THE RUTHLESS *MAYOR OF TERAMERE.*

WHAT WAS HIS NAME? OH YES... *LAEMMLE.*

LORD ALBERT LAEMMLE.

SURELY A MAN OF MY *LOW SOCIAL STANDING* DIDN'T BELONG HERE.

BUT IT SEEMS I WAS RIGHT WHERE I *NEEDED* TO BE.

BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE I FIRST *MET HER.*

I LOVED YOUR SONATA.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE.

YOU'RE NOT THEIR TYPE.

AND YOU ARE?

NOT BY CHOICE.

BUT YOU CAN'T CHOOSE YOUR FAMILY.

SO LONG!

WAIT! DO YOU PLAY?

A LITTLE PIANO, BUT I'M MOSTLY A *DANCER.*

THEN YOU REALLY DON'T BELONG DOWN THERE.

COME UP AND PLAY SOMETHING!

OH, I COULDN'T.

COME ON! JUST A SONG.

YOU'RE GOING TO GET ME IN *TROUBLE.*

GOOD. IT'S MORE *FUN* THAT WAY.

I THOUGHT I HAD *GIVEN UP* ON THE POSSIBILITY OF *LOVE.*

BUT IN THIS MOST UNLIKELY SETTING, I FINALLY FOUND A *KINDRED SPIRIT.*

UNFORTUNATELY, I DIDN'T REALIZE WHOSE *DAUGHTER* SHE WAS...

KATRINA!

GET DOWN FROM THERE!

FATHER!

I'M SORRY. I--

LOST YOUR MIND?

OR DID THIS FIDDLER BOY MAKE YOU?

SKIP!

NO!

STOP! LET GO!

I NEED THAT!

CRRRIIP

YOU WRETCHED CREATURE!

NOW I'LL NEVER SEE MY BELOVED AGAIN.

UNLESS I CAN SOMEHOW PIECE THIS THING BACK TOGETHER.

A *HOPELESS* TASK, BUT I MUST *TRY*.

FOR KATRINA.

HELLO?! IS ANYONE IN THERE?!

KNOCK KNOCK

CREEK

HIP HOP

OH... CAN I HELP YOU, MISS?

I...I JUST NEED A MOMENT.

I MUST HAVE GOTTEN ***CONFUSED*** AND WANDERED OFF...

COME, HAVE A SEAT.

IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME.

MY MIND GOES WHEN I HAVEN'T ***EATEN.***

I'LL GRAB SOME FOOD AND WATER.

THANK YOU, DEAR.

PATIENCE, MY PET.

WE HAVE HIM RIGHT WHERE WE WANT HIM.

HOP

HEL
P!
HELP! SOMEONE HELP ME!
HANG ON!
I WONDER IF I WAS ANY GOOD AT *FIGHTING.*
ALL I KNOW IS THAT I PLAYED *VIOLIN.*
UNLESS...
BACK OFF, CREATURES!

THANK YOU.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

PAT PAT

HOW ABOUT YOU START WITH YOUR NAME?

I'M *ELIZABETH.*

ERIK.

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU ***BELONG*** HERE, ELIZABETH.

SURELY YOU WERE ALLOWED INTO THE SACRED REALM?

I WISH I COULD BE.

ONE OF THOSE THINGS ***DESTROYED*** MY BOOK A LONG TIME AGO.

NO BOOK, NO JUDGMENT.

I CAN RELATE. ONE TORE ***MINE*** APART.

BUT I INTEND TO ***SALVAGE*** THE PAGES AND REJOIN MY LOVE IN THE SACRED REALM.

WELL, THE LEAST I CAN DO IS ***HELP*** YOU WITH THAT.

YOU'RE TOO KIND, BUT THAT'S NOT NECESSARY.

I ***INSIST.*** I'VE GOT NOTHING BUT TIME.

AND A GOOD ***LOVE STORY*** MIGHT BE JUST WHAT I ***NEED*** AT THIS POINT.

WHAT ARE THOSE CREATURES, ANYWAY?

THEY SEEM TO BE ***SPIRITS*** JUST LIKE YOU AND ME.

BUT THEY'VE LINGERED TOO LONG HERE IN THE SPIRIT REALM.

THE LONGER YOU STAY, THE ***LESS HUMAN*** YOU BECOME.

AND I'M ***TERRIFIED*** TO SAY THAT IT'S ALREADY HAPPENING TO ME.

I WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO TO HELP.

MY FATE'S BEEN ***DECIDED.***

BUT THERE'S STILL A ***CHANCE*** FOR YOU, SO WE'D BETTER GET GOING.

HERE YOU ARE.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, MISTER...?

PERKINS.

YOU KNOW, I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE...

...THIS ISN'T THAT ***HAUNTED MANOR*** EVERYONE'S ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT, IS IT?

I WOULDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.

KATRINA LAEMMLE

SURELY, YOU MUST.

THE MONSTER? GOES AROUND ***KIDNAPPING*** AND ***KILLING*** ALL THOSE INNOCENT GIRLS.

HOW'S THE OLD RHYME GO?

CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP

"THOSE WHO NEAR THE CRESCENT MANOR, PERCHED BENEATH THE CRESCENT MOON, CALL THE ***SPIRIT OF THE SHADOWS,*** CAUSING THEM TO MEET THEIR DOOM."

CRANK

I CAN ASSURE YOU...

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, MISS.

SHUD

IS THAT SO? DOES THE NAME "ERIK LEROUX" MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

HOW DO YOU KNOW OF HIM?

A WITCH HAS HER WAYS.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MY HELPFUL LITTLE HARUSPEX?

WITCH?!

THE NAME'S *HELENA HEXTRESS.*

I'M LOOKING FOR THE ONE THEY CALL *THE SPIRIT OF THE SHADOWS.*

ERIK LEROUX *KILLED MY SISTER.*

I'M HERE TO MAKE HIM PAY!

LOOK!

ARE THOSE YOUR PAGES THERE?

IT'S A *START.*

FROM FAIRLY *LATE* IN MY LIFE, BY THE LOOKS OF IT.

CRANK

PERKINS!

HOOK HER UP AND PREPARE THE EQUIPMENT FOR ANOTHER ATTEMPT.

BUT ERIK, WE KNOW HOW THIS GOES.

DOZENS OF BODIES AND NOTHING BUT ***FAILURES.***

IS IT REALLY ***WORTH*** ANOTHER ***DEATH?***

OF COURSE IT'S WORTH IT!

WE CAN'T STOP UNTIL WE ***SUCCEED.***

KATRINA IS COUNTING ON US.

ZZZZZZ

SHE'S DEAD.
ANOTHER FAILURE.
WE PRESS ON.
MISSIN
MISSING
MISSING
MISSING
MISSING
MISSING
MISSING
MISSING
MISSING
MISSING
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT DOES IT SHOW?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

NO.

MISSING

HER NAME WAS ELIZABETH!

NEXT ISSUE:

THE WAYWARD WITCH!

ON SALE
FEBRUARY 2026

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DIGITAL
COMICS
PRESERVATION